
11th JANUARY, 1805.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A B I L L,

TO amend the charter of George Town.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That
3 from, and after the third Monday of April next, the corporation of
4 George Town, in the district of Columbia, shall be divided into
5 two branches; the first branch to be composed of five members
6 and a recorder, and to be called the board of aldermen; and the
7 second branch to be composed of eleven members, and to be called
8 the board of common council men; which said two branches shall
9 be elected as hereafter particularly provided.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That immediately after the
2 passage of this act, and before the said day above mentioned,

3 the present members of the said corporation shall meet at their
 4 usual place of meeting, and then and there choose by ballot, from
 5 their body, five persons, to compose the said board of aldermen,
 6 which said persons, when chosen as aforesaid, shall compose the
 7 said board of aldermen, and be, and continue such, until the
 8 fourth Monday in February next; and that the present recorder
 9 of the said corporation shall be the president of the said board of
 10 aldermen, until the time last aforesaid: that the other members
 11 of the said corporation, (except the mayor.) shall compose the
 12 said second branch, called the board of common council men, and
 13 be, and continue such, until the time aforesaid, and shall choose,
 14 out of their own body, a president, to be, and continue such until
 15 the time aforesaid, and when thus organised, said corporation
 16 shall have, exercise, and possess, all the powers and rights now
 17 vested in the said corporation, and to be herein and hereby vested
 18 in them.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the present mayor of the
 2 corporation of Georgetown, shall be, and continue such, until the
 3 first Monday of January next.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That on the fourth Monday of
 2 February next, the free white male citizens of George town, of full
 3 age, and having resided within the town aforesaid, twelve
 4 months previously, and having paid tax to the corporation
 5 shall assemble at a place to be appointed, as hereafter di-

6 rected, and then and there shall proceed to elect, viva voce, five
 7 fit and proper persons, citizens of the United States, and residents
 8 of the said town, one whole year next before the said day of elec-
 9 tion, above twenty-one years of age, and having paid a tax to said
 10 corporation, to compose the said board of aldermen; and shall also
 11 at the same time proceed as aforesaid, to elect eleven fit and pro-
 12 per persons, having the qualifications last aforesaid, to compose
 13 the said board of common council men; the said board of aldermen
 14 to continue two years, and the said board of common council men
 15 to continue one year: and the said mayor, together with such
 16 other fit persons as shall be named and appointed by the said
 17 corporation, shall be judges of the election, and the five persons
 18 voted for as aldermen, who shall have the greatest number of legal
 19 votes on the final casting up of the polls, shall be declared duly
 20 elected for the board of aldermen: and the eleven persons voted for
 21 as common council men, who shall have the greatest number of
 22 legal votes upon the final casting up of the polls, shall be declared
 23 duly elected for the board of common council men; and that the
 24 like election for aldermen be held on the fourth Monday in Febru-
 25 ary, every two years thereafter; and for the said common council
 26 men, on the said fourth Monday in February annually, forever
 27 thereafter.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That on the first Monday of
 2 January next, and on the same day annually, forever thereafter, the
 3 said corporation shall, by a joint ballot of the said two branches

4 present, choose some fit and proper person to be mayor of the said
 5 corporation, and some fit and proper person, learned in the law,
 6 to be the recorder of the said corporation, to continue in office one
 7 year.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said mayor, before
 2 he acts as such, and the said recorder, before he acts as such, shall
 3 respectively make oath, before some justice of the peace, for the
 4 county of Washington aforesaid, in the presence of both branches
 5 of the said corporation, that he will well and faithfully discharge
 6 the several and respective duties of his office; and that each mem-
 7 ber of the said two branches shall, before he acts as such, in the
 8 presence of the corporation, take an oath to discharge the duties
 9 and trust reposed in him, with integrity, and faithfully.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That four members in the
 2 board of aldermen, and seven members in the board of common
 3 council men, shall form a quorum to do business—the said corpo-
 4 ration shall hold two sessions in each year; one to commence on
 5 the first Monday in April, and the other on the first Monday in
 6 December, with power to adjourn from day to day, to be held at
 7 such place as the mayor may designate, not otherwise provided
 8 for by ordinance: *Provided always*, That the mayor shall have
 9 power, on urgent occasions, to convene said corporation, on appli-
 10 cation of at least five members, in writing, giving reasonable
 11 notice of such intended meeting.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That each of the said
2 branches shall judge of the elections, qualifications, and returns
3 of its own members, and may compel the attendance of the mem-
4 bers of each branch by reasonable penalties; and either branch
5 shall have power to appoint their president, pro tempore, in case
6 of the absence of the one duly chosen as aforesaid; any ordinance
7 may originate in either branch, and no ordinance shall be passed,
8 but by a majority of both branches, nor unless it shall pass both
9 branches during the same session, and be approved of by the
10 mayor, who shall sign the same, unless he objects thereto within
11 forty-eight hours from the time the same is presented to him for
12 signature, if he does so object, he shall immediately return the
13 same to the said corporation, with his objections in writing, and
14 if, on reconsideration, a majority of each branch of the aldermen
15 then present, and a majority of the common council men then pre-
16 sent, shall be of opinion that the said law ought to be passed, it
17 shall, notwithstanding the objections of the mayor, become a law,
18 and he shall sign the same; if the said mayor shall not return his
19 objections to the same, to the said corporation, within the time
20 aforesaid, it shall become a law, and shall be signed by him—the
21 clerk of the corporation shall record, in a book to be kept by him
22 for that purpose, all the laws and resolutions which shall be pass-
23 ed as aforesaid, and deliver a copy of them to the public printer,
24 to be printed by him for the use of the people.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That in case the aldermen
 2 composing the first branch, shall at any time, on any question be-
 3 fore them, be equally divided, the recorder shall have the casting
 4 vote, and determine such question to the same effect as if the same
 5 had been determined by a majority of the aldermen present, and
 6 similar power is hereby given to the president of the second
 7 branch, in case of an equal division in that body.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty
 2 of the mayor, to see that the laws of the corporation be duly exe-
 3 cuted, and shall report the negligence or misconduct of any officer
 4 to the said corporation; who on satisfactory proof thereof, may
 5 remove from office the said delinquent, or take such other mea-
 6 sures thereupon as shall be just and lawful; he shall lay before
 7 the said corporation from time to time, in writing, such alterations
 8 in the laws of the said corporation as he shall deem necessary and
 9 proper; he shall have and exercise the powers of a justice of the
 10 peace in the said town and precincts; and shall receive for his
 11 services, annually, a just and reasonable compensation to be al-
 12 lowed and fixed by the said corporation; no person shall be eligi-
 13 ble to the said office of mayor unless a citizen of the United States
 14 of the age of thirty years, a resident of the said town or its precincts
 15 for five years then last past, and paying a tax to said corporation.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That in case of a vacancy
 2 in either branch of the said corporation, by death, removal or
 3 otherwise, of either of the members, a fit person or persons qua-

4 lified as aforesaid, shall be elected by the people in the manner
 5 aforesaid, to fill such vacancy immediately thereafter, the mayor
 6 giving however at least five days notice of such election: and in
 7 case of the vacancy of the mayor or recorder, the said corporation
 8 shall, within five days thereafter, as herein before directed, pro-
 9 ceed to the choice of a fit person or persons, qualified as afore-
 10 said, to fill his or their place.

1 SECT. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation
 2 shall have power to impose a tax not exceeding in any one year
 3 fifty cents in the hundred dollars, on all property within the said
 4 town; and the sessions of the said corporation shall be held as
 5 heretofore, until the said fourth Monday in February next; and
 6 the said corporation shall have, possess and enjoy all the rights,
 7 immunities, privileges and powers heretofore enjoyed by them;
 8 to be called by the same name as heretofore, and to have perpetual
 9 succession; and in addition thereto they shall have power to
 10 regulate the inspection of flour, and tobacco in said town and
 11 precincts, to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases with-
 12 in said town and precincts, to establish night watches and patrols,
 13 and erect lamps; to regulate the stationing, anchorage and moor-
 14 ing of vessels; to provide for regulating and licensing ordinaries,
 15 auctions and retailers of liquors, hackney carriages, waggon,
 16 carts and drays within said town and precincts; to restrain or
 17 prohibit gambling; to provide for licensing, regulating or restrain-
 18 ing theatrical or other public amusements; to regulate and esta-

19 blish markets ; to pass all laws for the regulation of weights and
 20 measures ; to provide for the licensing and regulating the sweep-
 21 ing of chimneys, and fixing the rates thereof ; to establish and re-
 22 gulate fire wards and fire companies : to regulate and establish
 23 the size of bricks to be made and used within said town and pre-
 24 cincts ; the inspection of salted provisions, and the assize of bread ;
 25 to sink wells, and erect and repair pumps in the streets ; to im-
 26 pose and appropriate fines, penalties and forfeitures for breach of
 27 their ordinances ; to erect work houses ; to open, extend and re-
 28 gulate streets within the limits of the said town and precincts,
 29 provided they make to the person or persons who may be injured
 30 by such opening, extension or regulation just and adequate com-
 31 pensation to be ascertained by the verdict of an impartial jury to
 32 be summoned, and sworn by a justice of the peace of the county
 33 of Washington, and to be formed of twenty-three men who shall
 34 proceed in like manner as has been usual in other cases where
 35 private property has been condemned for public use ; and they
 36 shall have the power of restraining, regulating and directing the
 37 manner of building wharves and docks ; also to direct the manner
 38 in which the improvements thereon to be erected shall be made,
 39 so that they may not become injurious to the health of the town ;
 40 in addition to the power heretofore granted to the said corpora-
 41 tion by the act of Congress, entitled " An act additional to and
 42 amendatory of an act, entitled, ' An act concerning the district of
 43 Columbia," of laying a tax of two dollars per foot front, for pav-

44 ing the streets, lanes, and alleys of the said town and precincts;
 45 they shall have the power upon petition in writing of a majority
 46 of the holders of the real property fronting on any street or alley, if
 47 in their judgment it shall be deemed necessary, to lay such fur-
 48 ther and additional sum on each foot front on said street or part of
 49 a street, as will be sufficient to pave said street or part of a street,
 50 lane or alley, so petitioned for; and the like remedy shall be used
 51 for the recovery thereof, as is now used for the recovery of the
 52 public county taxes in the said county of Washington; and they
 53 shall have power by ordinance to direct or order the paved streets
 54 to be cleansed and kept clean, and appoint an officer for that pur-
 55 pose; to make and keep in repair all necessary sewers and drains,
 56 and to pass regulations necessary for the preservation of the same.

1 SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That the duties on all li-
 2 censes to be granted as aforesaid, shall be to and for the proper
 3 use and benefit of the said corporation; and the said corporation
 4 shall have power to pass all laws not inconsistent with the laws of
 5 the United States, which may be necessary to give effect and ope-
 6 ration to all the powers vested in the said corporation; and to ap-
 7 point constables and collectors of the taxes, and all other officers
 8 who may be deemed necessary for the execution of their laws,
 9 whose duties and powers shall be prescribed in such manner as
 10 the said corporation shall deem fit for the purpose aforesaid.

1 SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the jurisdiction of
 2 the said corporation shall extend to the limits of the original plan

3 of said town, and to such additions as are recognized by law; and
4 that a survey as soon as conveniently may be after the passage of
5 this law, shall be made, under the direction of the said corpora-
6 tion, ascertaining said limits, and a plat thereof made and return-
7 ed to said corporation, which when approved of by them, shall be
8 preserved, and become a record.

1 SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the levy court of the
2 County of Washington, shall not hereafter possess the power of
3 imposing any tax on the inhabitants of Georgetown.